New Hampshire

Department of Agriculture,
Markets & Food

Make it a Real New Hampshire Holiday this Year!

By Gail McWilliam Jellie, Director Division of Agricultural Development

The holiday crunch is at hand. Are you still looking for the perfect gift? Here are some suggestions to help beat shopping angst and for decking the halls and table, as well.

Start with a fresh, New Hampshire grown Christmas tree. Add in some fragrant garland and wreaths and your home will look and smell wonderful! Create lasting family memories by visiting a local Christmas tree farm to select and cut your own special tree. If you're running short on time, you can find New Hampshire trees at retail lots throughout the state. Some farms even offer the opportunity to order trees and wreaths online to be shipped right to your door!

Don't forget poinsettias and other flowers and greens. They will dress your home and table with delightful color and texture.

Family and guests will rave about your holiday cooking particularly if you start with locally grown products. Whether it's turkey, ham, roast beef or lamb, nothing compares to a fresh cut to start. Consider trying venison, buffalo, elk, or trout for a one of a kind holiday feast. Add in cheese, yogurt and other dairy products, maple, honey and apples and your guests will clamber for more! If cooking is not your thing, take the family out to dinner. You can still experience local foods at many restaurants around the state.

Finally, to find gifts for even the hardest to buy for on your list, check out the business members of NH Made, Inc. You will find New Hampshire artisans and crafters produce an array of unique, high quality gift items including furniture, jewelry, art, specialty foods, glass and much, much more. You will be the most popular Santa around!

So, how do you find all these marvelous products? Start at the website of the NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food for a list of websites and contacts, www.agriculture.nh.gov. Now, relax and have a very Happy Holiday season!

For more information, contact the Division of Agricultural Development, NH Dept. of Agriculture, Markets & Food, PO Box 2042, Concord, NH 03302-2042, tel. 271-3788, email gmcwilliam@agr.state.nh.us, or visit www.agriculture.nh.gov.

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